

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11, 13-14, 16-18, 20-22, 24-27 and 29-36 are pending with Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16-18, 20-22, 24, 27, 29, 33, and 34 amended and Claims 2, 4, 8, 10, 12, 15, 19, 23, and 28 cancelled by the present amendment.

In the Official Action, Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sudo (U.S. Patent No. 6,647,025); Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nowara (U.S. Patent No. 6,445,713), in view of Muto (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,424); Claims 8, 10 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,646,980, hereinafter Yamamoto) in view of Aslanis et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0199554, hereinafter Aslanis) and Sudo and Higuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,037, hereinafter Higuchi); Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sudo, Yamamoto, Aslanis and Higuchi; Claims 2, 4-7, 19-20, 23 and 28-34 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Claims 9, 11, 13-14, 16, 21, 24-26 and 35-36 were allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 27, 29, 33, and 34 are amended to include the allowable features of Claims 2 and/or 4 and/or to correct grammar and/or to maintain antecedent basis. No new matter is added.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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